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PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PARENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of: Makoto FUJINO

Attorney Docket No.: MES1P057

Application No.: 09/977,063

Examiner: Unassigned

Filed: October 11, 2001

Group: Unassigned

Title: PRINT CONTROL APPARATUS HAVING SATURATION ENHANCING FUNCTION AND CORRESPONDING PRINT CONTROL METHOD

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail to: Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231 on February 4, 2002.

Signed:

Lara M. Nelson

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Prior to examination, please enter the following amendments.

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please **AMEND** the specification as follows:

- I) Please delete the paragraphs beginning on Page 14 line 9 and ending on Page 15 line 12.
- II) In the brief description of the drawings section please replace the description of Figs. 5-14 (beginning on Page 15, Line 22 and ending on Page 16, Line 13) with the following:

Fig. 5 is a flowchart showing the saturation enhancement process carried out in the first embodiment.

Fig. 6 is an xy chromaticity diagram showing comparison between the color gamut in the sRGB color system and the color gamut in the wide gamut RGB color system.

Fig. 7 conceptually shows linear mapping to convert image data in the sRGB color system into image data in the wide gamut RGB color system.

Fig. 8 shows the orthogonal coordinates of the RGB image data where the respective orthogonal axes represent the R, G, and B axes.

Fig. 9 conceptually shows a hexagonal pyramid color mode.

Fig. 10 shows a process of calculating the saturation (chroma) S and the hue H in the hexagonal pyramid color mode.

Fig. 11 shows an example of the enhancement coefficient Kh stored as the function of the hue H.

Fig. 12 shows an example of the preset correction coefficient Ks.

Fig. 13 is a flowchart showing a saturation enhancement process carried out in the second embodiment.

Fig. 14 is a flowchart showing another saturation enhancement process as a modified example of the second embodiment.

REMARKS

Should the Examiner have any questions regarding this Preliminary Amendment, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

BEYER WEAVER & THOMAS, LLP

for Steve D Beyer Reg. No. 31,234

P.O. Box 778 Berkeley, California 94704-0778 (650) 961-8300



Fig. 5 [shows the principle of signal conversion adopted in the printing system of the embodiment;] is a flowchart showing the saturation enhancement process carried out in the first embodiment.

Fig. 6 [shows the outline of a signal conversion process carried out by the print control apparatus of the embodiment;] is an xy chromaticity diagram showing comparison between the color gamut in the sRGB color system and the color gamut in the wide gamut RGB color system.

Fig. 7 [is a flowchart showing the signal conversion process carried out by the print control apparatus of the embodiment;] conceptually shows linear mapping to convert image data in the sRGB color system into image data in the wide gamut RGB color system.

Fig. 8 [shows a format of image data output from a printer driver to the color printer;] shows the orthogonal coordinates of the RGB image data where the respective orthogonal axes represent the R, G, and B axes.

Fig. 9 [shows the outline of a decoding process carried out by the color printer of the embodiment;] conceptually shows a hexagonal pyramid color mode.

Fig. 10 [is a flowchart showing the decoding process carried out by the color printer of the embodiment;] shows a process of calculating the saturation (chroma) S and the hue H in the hexagonal pyramid color mode.

Fig. 11 [shows an example of a logic circuit for the signal conversion process and the decoding process;] shows an example of the enhancement coefficient Kh stored as the function of the hue H.

Fig. 12 [shows an ink composition used in a color printer of a second embodiment;] shows an example of the preset correction coefficient Ks.

Fig. 13 [shows observed lightness of various inks used in the color printer of the second embodiment;] is a flowchart showing a saturation enhancement process carried out in the second embodiment.

Fig. 14 [conceptually shows a process of decoding image data, which has been subjected to signal conversion, in a printing system of the second embodiment;] is a flowchart showing another saturation enhancement process as a modified example of the second embodiment.